

Appl. No. 10/713,305
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Reply to Office Action dated October 13, 2006

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Listing of the Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the pre-rinse step is accomplished initially without heating the rinsing liquid.
- 3-7. (Canceled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the determination of the length of time required for turbidity of the rinsing liquid to stop increasing, the turbidity values, and the difference value is repeated at least once with a change in and heating of the rinsing liquid.
- 9-23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently Amended) A method of cleaning dishes in a dishwasher in accordance with a programmed wash cycle implemented by a central control unit and comprising a rinse step and a cleaning step where a rinsing liquid is recirculated in the dishwasher, the dishwasher comprising an upper spraying apparatus defining an upper spray plane and a lower spraying apparatus defining a lower spray plane, the method comprising:
determining a degree of soiling of the rinsing liquid by determining a turbidity values value corresponding to the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the lower spray plane and determining a turbidity value corresponding to the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the upper spray plane, ~~respectively~~; and
setting at least one operating parameter of at least one of the rinse step and the cleaning step based on the determined degree of soiling.
25. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the determination of the degree of soiling occurs during a pre-rinse step.

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26. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 25, wherein the pre-rinse step comprises a portion of the rinse step.
27. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the setting of the at least one operation parameter comprises setting at least one of a) a number of rinse steps to be performed, b) a duration of a rinse step, c) a water temperature of a rinse step, d) a duration of the cleaning step, e) a time at which dosing the rinsing liquid with a cleaning agent occurs, f) draining and refilling of the rinsing liquid, g) draining of the rinsing liquid, and h) drying time.
28. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24 wherein the determining of the degree of soiling further comprises determining a difference value corresponding to the difference between the turbidity values.
29. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 28, wherein the determining of the turbidity values corresponds to the turbidity when the turbidity is no longer increasing upon the recirculation of the rinsing liquid in the lower spray plane and the upper spray plane, respectively.
30. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 29, wherein the determining of the turbidity values comprises alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid in lower spray plane and the upper spray plane.
31. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 30, wherein the determining of the turbidity values comprises alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid in the lower and upper spray planes until the turbidity stops increasing for both the lower and upper spray planes.
32. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 31, and further comprising determining of a length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing for both the lower and upper spray planes.

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33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 32, wherein the setting of the at least one operating parameter is based on at least one of the difference value and the length of time for the turbidity to stop increasing.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the setting of the at least one operating parameter comprises setting the duration of the rinse step, water temperature of the rinse step, and additional water for the rinse step.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 35, wherein the difference value is derived continuously from the turbidity values of the lower and upper spray planes.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the turbidity is obtained from a turbidity sensor.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the rinsing liquid is categorized based on the determined degree of soiling, and the setting of the at least one operation parameter is based on the categorization.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 38, wherein the setting of the at least one operation parameter comprises setting at least one of a) a number of rinse steps to be performed, b) a duration of a rinse step, c) a water temperature of a rinse step, d) a duration of the cleaning step, e) a time at which dosing the rinsing liquid with a cleaning agent occurs, f) draining and refilling of the rinsing liquid, g) draining of the rinsing liquid, and h) drying time.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 24, wherein the determining of the turbidity values comprises alternately recirculating the rinsing liquid in lower spray plane and the upper spray plane.